Rwanda in 1994

Trace causes, consequences, and international choices

SS24.WH.16 "Analyze the causes and effects of both regional and internal conflicts in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. 16a Critique the response of the world community to mass atrocities and violations of human rights and civil..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two conditions that fueled the violence, circle two actions taken by other countries or the UN, and number two consequences for civilians. Use your marks to trace how decisions affected people.

From Civil War to Regional Crisis

1. Before 1994, Rwanda's Hutu and Tutsi communities lived with a dangerous political divide. Under Belgian colonial rule, identity cards fixed ethnic labels, and officials favored Tutsi people in many positions of power. After independence in 1962, Hutu leaders controlled the government, while many Tutsi families fled attacks and discrimination. In 1990, a rebel force made up largely of Tutsi exiles, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), invaded from Uganda. Civil war followed. Although leaders signed a peace agreement in 1993, extremists portrayed all Tutsi civilians as enemies and prepared militias for violence.

2. On April 6, 1994, Rwanda's president died when his plane was shot down. The attackers have never been identified with certainty, but Hutu extremists used his death to launch a planned campaign of killing. Militias and soldiers targeted Tutsi people and Hutu opponents of the extremists. Radio broadcasts urged participation, turning political hatred into attacks by neighbors. Over about 100 days, an estimated 800,000 people were killed. The RPF advanced across the country and took control in July, ending the genocide. Military victory stopped the killing, but it did not repair communities shattered by fear and loss.

3. United Nations peacekeepers were already in Rwanda to support the peace agreement, but their limited mission and small numbers could not halt the killings. After ten Belgian peacekeepers were murdered, Belgium withdrew its troops, and the UN reduced the force instead of quickly expanding protection. Some governments later sent aid and peacekeepers, but much of it arrived after enormous loss of life. As the RPF advanced, roughly two million people, mostly Hutu, fled to neighboring countries. Crowded camps faced disease, and some people responsible for the genocide escaped among civilians. Armed groups in refugee camps helped spread conflict into neighboring Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did colonial policies and the 1990 invasion each contribute to the conflict that erupted in 1994?

2. How did extremists use the president's death to turn a political crisis into mass killing?

3. Judge the UN and Belgian response during the genocide. What action suggests a failure to protect civilians, and what danger shaped that response?

4. How did the RPF's advance bring both an end to the genocide and new problems beyond Rwanda's borders?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence advice note to a UN delegate in April 1994. Propose a specific action to protect civilians, support it with two facts from the passage, explain one obstacle or risk, and predict one effect on civilians.

ANSWER KEY

Rwanda in 1994

GRADE 9 · SS24.WH.16

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two conditions that fueled the violence, circle two actions taken by other countries or the UN, and number two consequences for civilians. Use your marks to trace how decisions affected people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did colonial policies and the 1990 invasion each contribute to the conflict that erupted in 1994?	**Belgian policies reinforced ethnic divisions. The invasion began a civil war, and extremists portrayed Tutsi civilians as enemies.**
2	How did extremists use the president's death to turn a political crisis into mass killing?	**They used his death to launch a planned campaign against Tutsi people and Hutu opponents. Radio broadcasts urged others to take part.**
3	Judge the UN and Belgian response during the genocide. What action suggests a failure to protect civilians, and what danger shaped that response?	**After ten Belgian peacekeepers were murdered, Belgium withdrew its troops and the UN reduced its force rather than expanding protection. The peacekeepers' deaths showed the danger of the mission.**
4	How did the RPF's advance bring both an end to the genocide and new problems beyond Rwanda's borders?	**The RPF took control and ended the genocide. Many people fled into crowded camps, where disease spread and armed groups helped carry conflict into Zaire.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The UN should authorize more peacekeepers to protect civilians at threatened sites. Militias and soldiers were targeting Tutsi people and Hutu opponents, while the existing UN mission was too small to halt the killings. Sending troops would be difficult after ten Belgian peacekeepers were murdered and Belgium withdrew. If troops could reach threatened neighborhoods, more civilians might survive, though protection would not end the war by itself.

Accept other passage-supported judgments of the international response. For the advice note, look for a feasible proposed action, two accurate facts, a plausible obstacle, and a predicted effect rather than a claim that protection was guaranteed.